Open House celebrates 10th birthday

CRAWLEY Open House had a double celebration on Christmas Eve when the hostel marked their 10th birthday.

The charity in Stephenson Way, Three Bridges, has cared for 85,000 day centre people and 3,000 homeless, lonely or disadvantaged people have lived at the hostel since it opened on December 24 1994.

Senior manager, Charlie Cooper, enthused: "Everyone who has ever used the Crawley Open House was invited to the birthday celebration.

"It will be a boost for everyone and raise awareness of us too."

Mayor Jim Smith, town MP Laura Moffatt, and the chief executive of Crawley Borough Council, Michael Coughlin, were on hand to celebrate the hostel's anniversary.

Evidence of old flooding

Fast road maintenan is promised for Hor

A NEW road maintenance system in Horle means safety inspections will be carried out mor frequently and defects prioritised.

ene has been kept busy with public appearances and
t slots on radio shows – including Welsh station Coast FM.
said: "It's a little bit quieter now, but there's still a few public
earances and that sort of thing.
want to get a bit more stuff related to TV. Apparently after
ebrity Big Brother is on you tend to find more interesting stuff
ning up."
e Pound Hill resident said he wanted to use his interest in sci-
e and engineering in future TV work.
e is also looking at enrolling on an improvisational comedy and
e-playing course to sharpen up his TV and verbal skills.
ut he admits the loudmouth world of showbusiness is a bit of
ulture shock.
e said: "I don't like going up to people and demanding
ff, but a little bit of putting yourself forward can go a
ng way. Usually if I wanted to ask for something I would
very roundabout, but you do need to push yourself for-
ard a little bit more."
After just getting back from a round of public appear-
nces in Scotland the 28-year-old is being kept busy in the
n-up to Christmas. He said: "I'm doing some stuff with
Southern Counties radio and more radio in South Wales.
"I also need to get myself some video recording gear so I can get some ideas down."

ANTONY MICHAEL
SOUTHGATE HAIRDRESSERS

Tony and the team would like to welcome
LINDA

Linda had rejoined the salon and specialises in Colouring.

She is looking forward to seeing Customers Old and New.

WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND REMEMBER PLEASE BOOK EARLY

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reassured supporters Chico time is definitely not over.

The outrageous former town stripper, who entertained millions of viewers on ITV's talent show with unique interpretations of James Brown's I Feel Good and Michael Jackson's Billie Jean, reckons his own self-penned It's Chico Time will be in the shops early next year.

He said: "The day after I left X-Factor I went to the house, packed up all my things and said goodbye to the housemates.

"I was glad to have been voted off because I had got to the stage where I had achieved more than I ever imagined. It was time for me to go. I met the most amazing people while I was in the X-Factor but I wasn't sad to have left. I have a positive mental attitude about everything.

"There are so many things in the pipe-line for me. The future's bright, the future's Chico time!"

Natural entertainer, Chico has been extremely busy since he was booted off the X-Factor on Saturday, December 3, appearing on television programmes, radio shows and working with children's charities. But he aims to come back to Crawley and visit his dad and sister over the festive period and also make future appearances in town to thank all his loyal fans.

He added: "Thank you to everyone in Crawley who voted for me. I hope I did them proud. I had a beautiful journey and hope it brought a smile to people's faces.

"I'm a singer/songwriter and will continue to sing I'm in good hands with Sharon Osbourne and Grammy award winner Mark Hudson. Chico time has only just begun."

Author's stories published

AUTHOR Albert Williams is set to have a collection of short stories published in the New Year.

Albert, 43, of Dalewood Gardens, Northgate, will have 'Haunted Heritage and Other Stories' released to booksellers in early 2006.

'Haunted Heritage' is about a Dominican nurse returning to her island home with her British husband.

The story was written while Albert was working for Dominica's Tropical Star newspaper.

He said: "That's where a lot of these short stories have come from.

"I came to England last year and I began sorting through things, looking for people to publish my work."

Albert was born in England, but left for the small Caribbean island of Dominica in 1972.

In 2000 he took a correspondence course in short story writing and journalism.

He has had three poetry collections published – 'Haunted Heritage and Other Stories' which will be released through Publishamerica.

Albert said: "They have an acquisitions process and if they think the book is marketable and saleable then you sign a contract with them, which I did in July."

Albert is now working on his first novel.

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has a regularly updated page listing the banks current offerings.

"Couldn't you regard me as a third world country and write it off?"

Test Valley Borough Council supports new and small businesses in many ways from offering a £500 Business Incentive Grant (for start ups and small businesses creating an extra job), £100 grants (Hampshire-wide) for businesses taking broadband, to free training and advice from two Enterprise Agencies which operate in the Borough.
Please have a look at www.testvalley.gov.uk/business.

Can you help an Entrepreneur coming home to roost?

Albert Williams needs finance to launch a new magazine.

After getting nowhere with his search for employment, 43 year old, Albert Williams is excited about becoming self-employed. According to the poet, author and journalist, his vision of becoming a magazine publisher is now only a smart business plan away.

Williams, born in the picturesque village of Emsworth, of Caribbean parentage, always wanted to be an entrepreneur, and is confident that his first class, glossy, magazine, "UK-Caribbean", will now become a reality.

Interestingly, Albert's love for creative writing and journalism was ignited during the 32 years that he lived in the Caribbean and prepared him for his greatest creative challenge to date.

Albert migrated to The Commonwealth of Dominica with his father in 1972, at the age of ten. There he demonstrated a keen eye for the entrepreneurial spirit, where he published several poetry magazines.

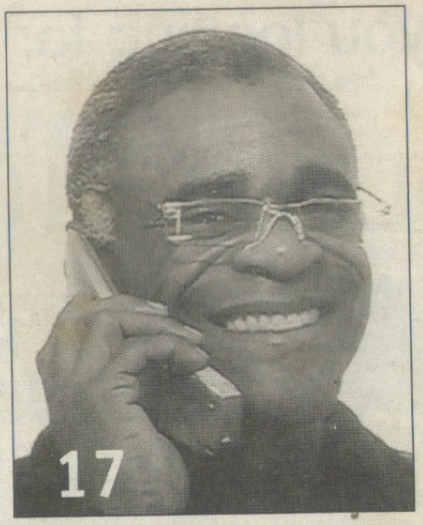
He even produced and presented a one hour, literary radio program for the Dominica Writer's Guild (of which he is founder member.) Albert was one of several young persons who also founded the Frontline Co-operative Bookstore. In addition, he was then invited to join the Dominica's oldest and most read newspaper, The Chronicle as a full-time reporter and photographer.
His current project, to found his own publishing company, and to publish UK-Caribbean magazine, is born out of a deep understanding of the issues and aspirations that underlie the meaning of existence of the citizens of the two regions.

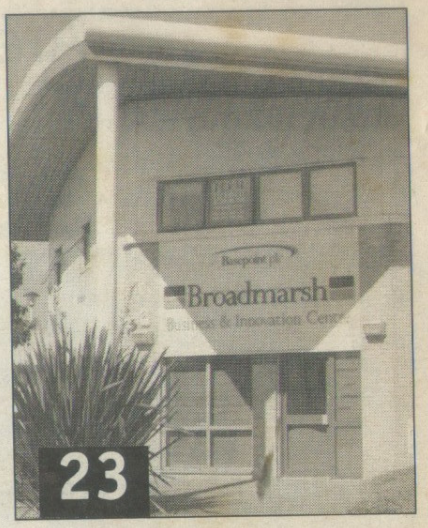
Albert remains a charismatic and focused individual, and enthusiastic about the future prospects of his idea. However, he now needs like-minded individuals or organisations to inject funds into the concept. If this is you, why not contact Albert and help him complete this happy home-coming story.

http://uk.geocities.com/albertscript2003/albert-williamsindex.html
Telephone number 078 598 461 68 or
E-mail: albertscript2003@yahoo.com

Entrepreneur's Motto: "I started out with nothing and still have most of it left!"

Hampshire start ups SEVEN
New businesses in Hampshire
InBiz Ltd EIGHT
Help for Jobcentre Plus New Deal clients
Island Ventures NINE
New businesses on the IOW
Useful reference sources TEN
Books and magazines
Advice & guidance ELEVEN
Increase your chances of survival
Untangling the World Wide Web TWELVE
What the internet can do for you
Useful websites FOURTEEN
Sites for new businesses
Equal Opportunities FIFTEEN
Business for all
Networking SIXTEEN
How to make useful contacts
Finance SEVENTEEN
Money & Banking
Print & design EIGHTEEN
Local firms looking to help you.
Marketing NINETEEN
Regular feature - hints and tips
Accountants & book keepers TWENTY
Local firms keen to help you.
Accounting TWENTY-ONE
Accountancy feature
Local help organisations TWENTY-TWO
Directory of business support
Local help organisations TWENTY-THREE
Directory of business support





Start Your Own Business

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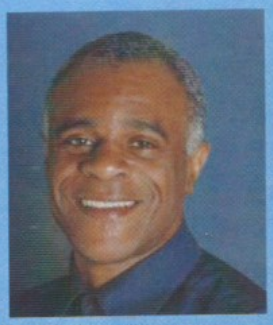
"There is more to life than increasing its speed" (Gandhi)



Albert Williams

Linda Wallis

Gaynor Butcher

Vanessa Cumper

Tenants on the Shadow Board

In December 2005, every one of you, including leaseholders was sent an invitation to apply for the Shadow Board. The purpose of this unpaid Board is to put together policies and shape the new organisation. The Shadow Board will only become a full Board if a majority of you vote in favour of the transfer.

The Council accepted TPAS' offer to run the process independently. An impartial and open selecti process was held in which 36 expressed an interest. These were all sent an application pack and n subsequently applied. They were invited to be interviewed by trained tenants appointed by the Crawley Tenants Panel. The process was independently observed by TPAS and by the Council to ensure fairness. Applicants were tested on the following:

- Time commitment
- Willingness to learn new skills
- Communication skills and team work
- Commitment to equal opportunities and confidentiality
- Ability to work in the best interest of the new housing organisation

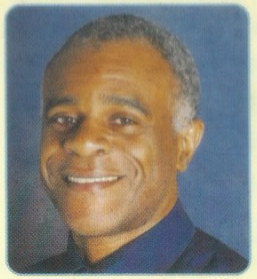
Congratulations

Congratulations to: Linda Wallis, Vanessa Cumper, Albert Williams, Carolyn Wadley and Gaynor Butcher (leaseholder board member) who were selected.

These residents are on the Shadow Board to bring a residents' perspective.

All members of the Shadow Board have been chosen for their skills, experience and commitment to improving homes and services in Crawley.

sible from transfer, including improved living conditions and a better environment.



Albert Williams

A tenant from Northgate, Albert has worked in security, welfare and journalism – allowing him to bring many different skills to the Shadow Board.

He is committed to making a useful contribution to the borough, prompting his decision to get involved with the proposed new landlord.

Albert has written and self-published three booklets of poetry and recently has had one book of short stories published by a traditional publisher. He is an excellent performance poet and workshop facilitator.

Gaynor Butcher

A Council tenant for 10 years, Gaynor bought her maisonette seven years ago. Now a leaseholder from Bewbush, Gaynor became a member of the Shadow Board in order to make a positive contribution to the borough.

In a varied career, Gaynor worked for the Department of Social Security for several years and ran her own business in East Sussex, providing a range of goods and services.

She now intends to use all her experience and enthusiasm for the benefit of other leaseholders and tenants.

Vanessa Cumper

Vanessa has been a tenant in Crawley for 16 years.

Currently studying for a degree in cosmetic science, she brings strong organisational skills and enthusiasm to her role on the Shadow Board.

She was keen to get involved with the transfer proposal in order to give something back to her community. Vanessa lives in West Green and has two children.

at matter to members

Job cuts slammed

Usdaw maintained its high political profile when its delegation, made up of activists and officials, went to the **Labour Party conference** in September where the Coalition Government's spending plans and economic policy were widely criticised. "Their plans threaten to seriously damage growth and at worse risks plunging the UK into another recession," general secretary John Hannett said. "We believe the speed and depth of the proposed cuts is both unfair and irresponsible. More than a million more jobs in both the public and private sectors are now under threat and it is clear the less well off are going to be hit the hardest."

The union's delegation to the Labour Party conference 2010

All-inclusive membership

Increasing the involvement of black and Asian workers in the union was the aim of the **Black Members' Weekend** held in Warrington in October.

This national event is well-established in the union's calendar and brings together members from across the UK and from across all union sectors to discuss equalities, recruitment and racism.

Members and officials at the weekend

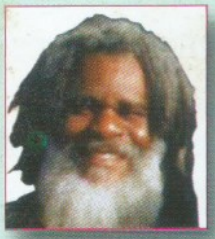
Usdaw Reps make a real difference to the working lives of members ...

John Hannett, Usdaw General Secretary

"Despite the tough economic climate, Usdaw membership in Tesco has now reached over 160,000. This is a fantastic achievement and is down to the hard work and commitment put in by Tesco Reps and I would hope that these Reps will continue to receive your support and confidence. However, we are always looking for new Reps so that as a Union we can continue to promote the interests of all our members."

Albert Williams – Usdaw Rep, Crawley Hazlewick Extra

"Being a Rep can be both challenging and rewarding and although it may seem daunting the Union will support you every step of the way with specialist training so you can help members to the best of your ability."



Debbie Newman – Usdaw Rep, Tesco Superstore, Chelmsford 2

"Being an Usdaw Rep has given me the confidence and self belief to become more active in the Union. My role with Usdaw's Divisional Equalities Committee has given me the opportunity to get involved in areas I've always felt strongly about in my life."

Katrina Bell, Usdaw Rep, Tesco Superstore, Bury

"We need good Reps in store because it's absolutely crucial to ensure that member's concerns are not only voiced, but dealt with effectively."

Warren Scott – Usdaw Rep, Tesco Extra, Newtownbreda NI

"I became a Union Rep because I wanted to make a difference and I wanted young workers in my store to have a voice. I would encourage young members who are thinking of becoming Reps to put themselves forward."

Sam Bell – Usdaw Rep, Tesco Superstore, Greenfield

"People tend to come to me when they are experiencing problems at work and being a Rep gives me access to the support I need to help them."

at matter to members

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Members and officials at the weekend

Isaiah Williams (left). Albert Williams and wife Tempie with donations.

Desperate plea for help after family caught up in hurricane

James Oxenham
crawleyobserver@jpress.co.uk
01403751200|@Southnews_James

A Crawley resident whose family were caught up in a devastating hurricane in the Caribbean has issued a desperate plea for help.

The island of Dominica was battered by grade-five Hurricane Maria on Monday, September 18, as the tropical cyclone ripped through the country destroying homes and businesses as well as electricity and food supplies.

National media reported almost the entirety of the 70,000 population was affected and as of Tuesday, September 26, 27 people had died while dozens more were missing.

Albert Williams lived in the country for 32 years before moving to Crawley in 2004.

His son, Isaiah, was caught up in the chaos and Albert didn't hear from him for several days.

He said: "When news broke out about it I broke down, it was devastating.

"My extended family are out there. I have my son, nephews, aunties, cousins, school friends out there. It was very worrying."

Albert managed to speak to his son over the weekend. He said he was not hurt in the disaster. However, his house was badly damaged.

Dominica was hit by a similar storm, Hurricane David, in 1979.

Albert was living in the country at the time and said he saw parallels between the two disasters.

"The devastation was as bad as it is today so I know exactly what they are going through," he said. "It's the devastation where you wake up in the morning and everything is a total mess.

"It's overwhelming the scale of damage being done by the weather. There's quite a lot of pain out there at this moment."

Albert is calling on people in Crawley to help send aid to those affected. So far he has collected more than £300 in donations which has been used to buy tins of food and goods which will be sent over to the country.

He said: "The thing is right now there is no food supply, there is no electricity, right now you are just existing from day to day. There is no work, there is no school, there is no church, there's nothing.

"I can't just do nothing. I have to try and do more and raise those extra funds."

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dominice-hurricanemaria-relief

More misery for rail users as strikes are called

Another two days of Southern rail strikes have been called in a dispute over driver-only trains.

The RMT union has been fighting the further extension of driver-only operation on the Southern network by Govia Thameslink Railway since April 2016.

The changes make drivers responsible for opening and closing train doors, with the RMT raising safety and access concerns. The union has instructed its members not to book any shifts on both Tuesday October 3 and Thursday October 5.

Mick Cash, general secretary at the RMT, said: "RMT is bitterly disappointed that Southern Rail and the DFT continue to reject our call for round table discussions involving all parties with an interest in resolving this dispute.

"The failure to get those talks moving following our face to face meeting with Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has left us no option but to call further action. "RMT pays tribute to our Southern Rail guards and drivers who have stood firm for 18 months in the fight for rail safety."

He added: "They are a credit to their communities and to the whole trade union movement as they continue to take action for safety in Britain's longest running industrial dispute.

"RMT has a clear plan for resolving this dispute but that requires round table talks now to push forwards."

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CROWDFUNDER FOR DOMINICA

Father aims to raise £200k in bid to help islanders recover from hurricane devastation

By Sinai Fleury

A FATHER from West Sussex whose son was missing during Hurricane Maria has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for Dominica.

Ras Albert Williams, of Crawley, hopes to raise £200,000 to help rebuild the hurricane-stricken island, after it was left devastated by the category five hurricane last month.

With the money he has already raised, Williams has purchased tins of milk and other emergency supplies brought to the Dominica High Commission in London, which was shipped out on September 26.

He said: "Nothing feels better than to help those in need. As a Dominican in the diaspora, I had to do something."

Williams launched the campaign after Maria hit the island, despite not knowing if his own son, Isaiah Williams, 31, who lives in King's Hill, Roseau, was safe.

He said: "After Hurricane Irma I kept a close eye on the weather, and that's when I realised the mother of all storms was right behind – and heading for Dominica.

> "I had to wait a whole week before I heard from my son"

"I managed to call my son Sunday and Maria hit the island on Monday night. It was an agonising wait before I heard from Isaiah again."

Many Dominicans living in the UK have expressed their frustration about the lack of news on relief effort and survivors – a view shared by Williams.

He said: "There was little news on the mainstream news stations and that was hard, so I kept checking his Facebook profile for an update but there was nothing.

"I tried to remain positive and decided to set up the crowdfunding initiative which helped change my mood and gave me purpose during those uncertain days.

"As the days passed I checked Dominican websites and internet radio stations for updates but they were all down, which added to the frustration.

He said: "I had to wait a whole week before I heard from my son. When I spoke to him he didn't say much except the house he was in was completed destroyed."

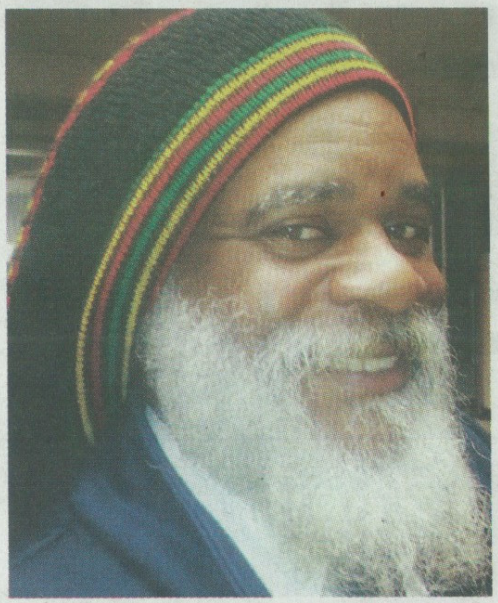
He has now registered Isaiah with the Foreign Office and hopes he will be able to join him in England.

Williams was in Dominica in 1979 when Hurricane David battered the island.

He recalls: "There is nothing more terrifying than experiencing a hurricane. The howling of the wind, the constant heavy rain and there is an unusual smell of death that occurs afterwards. The greatest challenge will be the rebuilding of all the Caribbean islands, aid will help but this will be a long process.

"It is a humanitarian crisis – we need to help because people have lost everything."

Hurricane Maria was Dominica's first category five storm in recorded history, and will take years to recover.

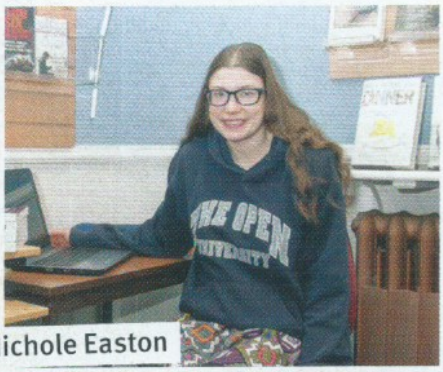


EFFORTS: Ras Albert Williams, left, and son Isaiah, who was missing in the hurricane aftermath

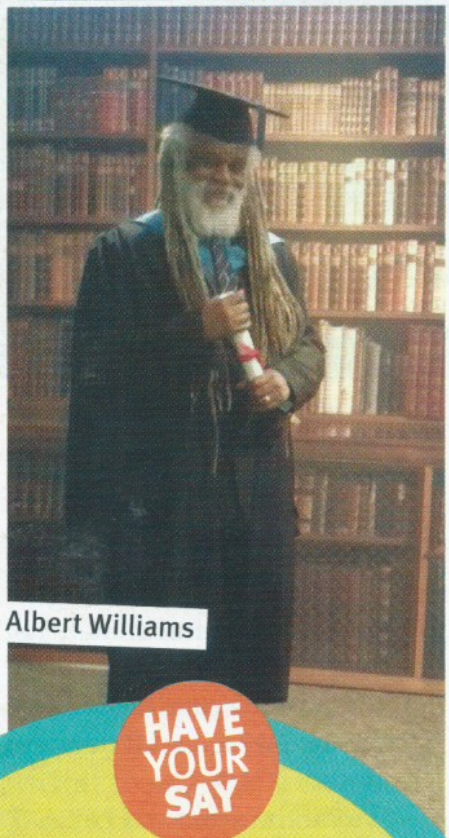
To donate to Williams' page go to justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dominice-hurricanemaria-relief

arena Letters

Members can have their say right here via email or post — but keep it brief!



Nichole Easton



Albert Williams

Cash boost for members

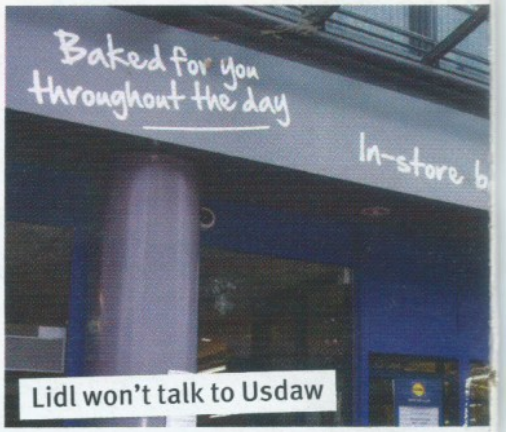
Usdaw has had a great response from members studying with the Open University (OU) after *arena* reported on graduate **Nichole Easton** in the spring issue.

Many members, who previously did not know the union provides cash help for OU students, have since claimed the £150 or £75 grant available after they completed either a 60 or 30 point course respectively.

One of the Usdaw supported graduates was **Albert Williams** who now has a BSc (Hons) in Computing and IT. Family and friends gathered at the Barbican Centre, London in March this year to celebrate Rastafarian Albert's six years of hard work while holding down his security job at Tesco Extra in Hazelwick Avenue, London.

His education journey does not stop there as Albert is aiming for an MSc in Technology Management over the next two years. His wife Tempie is also studying with the OU and the two have supported each other on their learning adventure.

You can find out more about the financial help Usdaw offers at: **www.usdaw.org.uk/education**



Lidl won't talk to Usdaw

Kezia Dugdale

Snub for Lidl in Scotland

Scottish Labour leader **Kezia Dugdale** MSP turned down the chance to open a new Lidl store in Edinburgh when she found out that the company refuses to recognise trade unions.

In a letter to the company, while welcoming its investment, she wrote:

"I have spoken to Usdaw representatives and I was disappointed to learn that Aldi and Lidl are refusing to recognise their trade union Usdaw. Further, that Lidl refuse to even let representatives of the trade union enter their stores to speak to staff is simply not acceptable. I would encourage you to sit down to meet with Usdaw representatives to better understand and discuss the problems that have been raised by Lidl staff with their trade union.

"Staff working for Lidl have identified to Usdaw that there are a number of problems including bullying by

HAVE YOUR SAY

Send your thoughts to:
The Editor, arena, Usdaw, 188 Wilmslow Road, Manchester, M14 6LJ
or email: arena@usdaw.org.uk

Star Letter wins £50!

aims a prize
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ith Michael Harris, chair of trustees of the Sussex Masonic Charities

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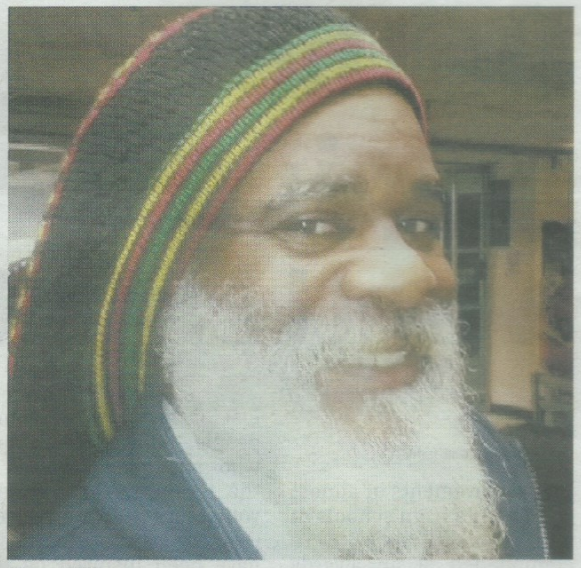
Sussex District Council.

Sarah Peay, one of the key organisers, said: "Many here today know what a special year in the life it is for The South of England Agricultural Society. One of the key areas of the society is education - for young people to learn all aspects of country life. Jim Green was one of the founder members of the society and this competition fits in so well with his ideas on education; today was evidence that his vision is as strong as ever and everyone's great work reflects the society's aims of the past, present and future."

Sarah also thanked sponsors Sussex Masonic Charities who this year celebrate their 300th year and who generously doubled their sponsorship of the event, Mrs. Carole Hayward, Mr. Kevin Booth who could not be there on the day but whose personal support is vital to the Jim Green Challenge, The Golden Lion Children's Trust, The Camelia Botnar Foundation who kindly donated the plants, as well as the many volunteers for their contribution to a very successful day. Many of the items made by the students will be on display at the forthcoming 50 th Anniversary Show on June 8 - 10.



Albert Williams

Pride as security guard earns BSc

Staff Reporter
crawleyobserver@jpress.co.uk

After years of study, Crawley resident Albert Williams, 54, will graduate from the Open University in a ceremony at the Barbican Centre, London, on Friday.

Albert has been working as a night security guard at Tesco Extra in Hazelwick Avenue since 2006, and has been working as a long distance home study student at the Open University for the past six years. He recevied his quallification award in December last year, recognising him as a Bachelor of Science (Honours) Degree in Computing and Information Technology.

A statement to the Crawley Observer said: "Albert Williams is now working towards a MSc in Technology Management that he intends to complete by December 2019.

"He started his Post Graduate journey in November 2016 with Managing Technological Innovation T848. It is his expectation that his undergraduate and postgraduate studies will deepen his understanding of information communication technologies; entrepreneurship; legislation; innovation and many other subjects that he aims to utilise in his personal and professional career."

It added that Albert's wife, Tempie Williams, 62, is also an Open University student with her own unique academic journey of achievements, as well as being her husband's number one supporter.

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they are still training in their individual roles."

Harry Phelps, aged 20 from Crawley, gained national recognition for his contribution to Adelphi's business when he won Apprentice of the Year for the Processing and Packaging Machinery Association Group Awards

I'd have never had the opportunity to be involved in if I hadn't followed the Apprenticeship route."

Once Jordan Toogood, aged 19 from East Grinstead had completed his Level 2 full time course in Welding at Central Sussex College, he took part in a 'speed meet' where the

become an apprentice at Adelphi, I've been impressed with the people who are helping me learn my trade.

"They are passing on their years of experience from working in the industry and it's helping me become a really competent welder."

machinery destined for overseas export.

Alex explained: "Like everyone else I had a vision of what an engineering business warehouse might be like, cold, dark and old fashion, but I was very wrong as I work in a modern building and use a number of technological